



“THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK”  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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**For Immediate Release:**

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## **Youth Bureau Celebrates 6<sup>th</sup> Grade STEM Learners**

**White Plains, NY – January 5, 2015.** The White Plains Youth Bureau has announced the completion of an intensive 8 week STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) learning program, which brought hands-on STEM learning to fifteen 6<sup>th</sup> grade students in the White Plains Youth Bureau’s After School Connection program at Eastview Middle School.

Twice a week the students in the program participated in hands-on projects in areas such as rocketry, roller coaster design and hovercraft design. In the process they honed their STEM skills, learned from their successes as well as their mistakes, and learned how to make adjustments as they went along. Additionally, the students documented their work in writing and on video. The workshops were led by experienced science teachers under the direction of Lawrence Perreto, Executive Director of the STEM Education Leadership Center.

At a final session and celebration of the program on December 16<sup>th</sup> at Eastview Middle School the students worked on a final project about electrical circuitry with an audience of fascinated guests including Mayor Roach, Common Council Member Dennis Krolan, Eastview Principal Joseph Cloherty, Westchester County Youth Bureau Director Dr. Iris Pagan, Youth Bureau Director Frank Williams and Youth Board member Dorothy Schere, parents and other friends of the program. The day’s activities culminated in a magnetic “fishing contest” with groups of students competing to see who could most effectively design and operate a magnetized “fishing pole” and catch the most paper clip fish. The excitement of the students said a great deal about the degree to which the program achieved its aim of awakening the curiosity and interest of middle schoolers, both boys and girls, in the vital area of STEM learning, which can not only foster overall intellectual development but introduce them to future careers in these crucial and promising areas.

(More)



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“I was amazed at what these students achieved in a very short period of time and delighted to witness their obvious excitement about their projects,” said Mayor Roach. “Working cooperatively with our school district, County Youth Bureau and the STEM Education Leadership Center, we are pleased to be able to offer this valuable opportunity to White Plains youth.”

This project is one of a number of significant initiatives of the White Plains Youth Bureau in the area of STEM learning. Other initiatives include a Saturday Boys Academy, a Saturday Girls Academy and the hiring of a STEM specialist to provide STEM learning in the elementary after school programs.

This project was made possible by a grant from the Westchester County Youth Bureau with additional support from the Friends of the White Plains Youth Bureau.

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